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Identical letters dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the position of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the nineteenth report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014) (S/2015/698).

At the outset, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic would like to reiterate the position that it has already conveyed in detail to both the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council in previous identical letters regarding the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014). It would also like to stress the following points:

1. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic notes that, in paragraph 31, the authors of the report have come closer to reflecting the facts on the ground with their acknowledgment of the noteworthy efforts of the Syrian Government to provide humanitarian assistance to its citizens affected by the crisis, wherever they may be, in spite of the terrorist war being waged against the Syrian state by tens of thousands of terrorists who come from over 100 States and receive logistical and political support from well-known States, principally Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel. The above-mentioned paragraph states that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic continued to provide basic services to areas under its control and, in many cases, in areas beyond its control. The Syrian Government hopes that this is a harbinger of a new approach by the Secretariat to political questions in its future reports. The Secretariat has continued to take an illogical approach that relies on information disseminated by armed terrorist organizations. Syria reaffirms its commitment to delivering humanitarian assistance to persons affected by the crisis in all Syrian governorates, without discrimination, and to cooperate with the United Nations and its agencies in that regard, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the rules of international law and the guiding principles for humanitarian emergency assistance set forth in General Assembly resolution 46/182.

2. The Syrian Government regrets that the report employs a flawed political approach that is not based on objective sources, thus turning the report into a mouthpiece for worthless terrorist propaganda. The truth that must be recognized by all is that the armed terrorists engineered a bloody escalation just prior to the visit

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by United Nations officials to Damascus. Those terrorist groups cut off water completely for more than two months to the inhabitants of Aleppo, for approximately two weeks to Dar'a and for more than a week to Damascus. Approximately 5,370,000 persons live in the capital alone, including persons displaced from other areas. At the same time as water was cut off to Damascus, terrorist groups in Duma, Jubar, Harasta and other areas commenced to rain hundreds of rockets and shells down on peaceable Damascus neighbourhoods for several days, killing dozens and injuring hundreds. The report's authors deliberately downplay the gravity of those facts and go out of their way to soft-pedal them. The authors also neglect to name the States that support the terrorist groups that commit daily acts of aggression against peaceful Syrian civilians.

3. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its rejection of the authors' attempts to deny the right, indeed, the constitutional duty, of the State to counter multinational terrorism and its right to defend the safety and unity of its territory and the safety and security of its people. That right is guaranteed to it and to other States under the Charter of the United Nations, international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions. It is only natural that the Government should order its national army and armed forces to respond to those terrorists and, in particular, strike their positions. Any talk of targeting public squares and commercial markets runs counter to the truth and is intended to tarnish the image of the Syrian Government by lumping together the legitimate right of the Syrian Government to defend itself, its people and its territory with the bloody crimes being committed by armed terrorist groups. They are drawing a false equivalency between two completely opposite things: counter-terrorism, on the one hand, and terrorism and murder of innocents, on the other. Annex I lists some of the crimes committed by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Army of Conquest and other armed terrorist groups.

4. The Syrian Government also rejects the continued use by certain Secretariat officials of the term "non-State armed groups" to describe such armed terrorist groups as ISIL and the Nusrah Front. That constitutes a flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and the Charter of the United Nations. Syria has every right to ask the Secretariat what is its legal basis for applying such a term, especially when several paragraphs of the very same report indicate that those groups are targeting peaceable civilians and murdering dozens of them. When the Secretariat persists in such an approach, it sends a message to the terrorists and States such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Jordan, which directly support and finance them, to continue to commit their crimes and provide cover for their terrorism.

5. The authors persist in their efforts to give the impression that the Syrian Government targets civilians. This is a fabrication motivated by political goals and is intended to misrepresent the efforts of the Government to attack terrorists in the areas where they are deployed and concentrated. We repeat that the most telling sign of the falsehood of that allegation is that when civilians flee from areas overrun by armed terrorist groups, they head to areas that are under the protection the State and Syrian Arab Army. Examples of that are plentiful. It has happened with the populations of Husaniyah in Rif Dimashq, Qaryatayn, Tadmur (Palmyra), Idlib, the Yarmouk camp and other places. In that connection, the Syrian Government finds it deplorable that the authors wilfully ignore numerous facts, including the fact that security has been restored to the city of Hasakah and thousands of civilians have

returned to their homes owing to the successes and sacrifices of the Syrian Arab Army, supported by the people of Hasakah, who rallied around it.

6. The Government expresses reservations about paragraph 41, which overstates the number of requests submitted by the United Nations for access to hotspots by combining old requests with new ones and including among the latter repeat requests for access to certain areas, or requests that have already been approved but not yet acted on, such as for Arbin, and other areas that the United Nations has thus far been unable to reach, such as Nubul, Zahra' and Afrin in Aleppo. The Syrian Government would like to know the benefit of approving United Nations requests for joint assistance convoys to hotspots, when half of such approvals previously granted were not acted on, for reasons that are open to debate. During the period covered by the report, the Syrian Government approved applications from both the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Health Organization (WHO) to deliver assistance to hotspots in Duma, Harasta, Fu'ah and Kafraya. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic stresses that the reasons given by the United Nations for not being able to deliver to hotspots are also taken into consideration by the Syrian side when it decides to deny certain requests. It takes into account a number of considerations, the most important being the security situation on the ground, the security and safety of humanitarian workers, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is delivered to its rightful recipients and that it does not fall into the hands of the armed terrorist groups, which are widespread in hotspots, as that would help prolong those groups' lease on life and the suffering they inflict on civilians.

7. The Syrian Government also regrets the authors' continued efforts to diminish the importance of the humanitarian successes achieved in Syria in coordination and cooperation with the Government. Those successes would not have been possible had it not been for the positive and effective role the Government played in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all areas, including hotspots.

8. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its position that the so-called delivery of cross-border assistance is ineffective. It has several reasons for doing so. First of all, most of the information contained in the report is inaccurate. The Secretariat insists on manipulating and inflating the figures, as is the case with the figures in paragraph 32 of the report under consideration and other figures and information in previous reports by the Secretary-General, as part of an effort to politicize humanitarian issues. In that connection, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that it would be dangerous for the United Nations to increase the volume of cross-border assistance at the expense of decreasing the amount of assistance delivered from inside Syria and delivering it to those who truly need it. The inhabitants of areas that are supposed to receive "cross-border assistance" continually inform us that the assistance is falling into the hands or under the control of armed terrorist groups, which either sell it at exorbitant prices or provide it only to their supporters. We wish to note that the notifications for the month of August contained numerous errors and omissions, including the following: the Jabal Sam'an area is not part of the Idlib governorate but rather of Aleppo governorate; there was confusion regarding the use of border crossings; a number of recipients in certain parts of Idlib and Aleppo were omitted; a number of trucks were omitted; and shipments were lumped together. The large number of such errors merely serves to prove what we have been saying about this and previous reports.

9. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic repudiates the baseless allegations that the authors have included in the report. Those allegations originate with parties that are well known for their lack of transparency and credibility and for their bias, and whose aim is to tarnish the reputation of the Syrian Government. Events of the past four years have shown that the Syrian Government has taken sound decisions, acted in earnest and strived to protect the lives of its citizens, whether in relation to humanitarian issues or counter-terrorism. It has become clear that the report purposely continues to tarnish the image of the Syrian Government by ignoring its efforts to defend the people of Syria and diabolically equating it with the terrorist groups. That is unacceptable. Syria deplores the insistence of the Secretariat on minimizing the repugnance of terrorist crimes and failing to mention the terrorists from the Nusrah Front and ISIL organizations that perpetrate them, as well as the Secretariat's use of hateful sectarian language in that regard. We are surprised by and deplore the lies of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is embracing the allegations and statements made by those who support terrorists in Syria. The Syrian Government reiterates its position that it has not and will not use chemical weapons against anyone.

10. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that that the shameful, repeated terrorist crimes against civilians in Syria would not have occurred if Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Israel, Jordan, Turkey and certain Western States in particular had not supplied weapons, funding, equipment, safe haven, medical treatment, training and logistical support to the armed terrorist groups. The most recent have been the crimes committed by the evil ISIL organization, right before the eyes of the very States that claim to be fighting it, against the universal heritage of humanity in Tadmur and Qaryatayn. Those crimes are a continuation of the attacks against civilians and their property, infrastructure, agriculture and the land that have been going on for the past four years and have been the subject of official letters from the Syrian Government addressed to the Secretary-General.

The Syrian Government deplores the fact that the report not only ignores the crimes of such armed terrorist groups as ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Army of Conquest, the Army of Islam, the Free Army and Ahrar al-Sham, but wilfully neglects to include even a mere mention of them. Those crimes could not have been committed without generous foreign support for those groups and the existence of intelligence and military operations rooms, such as those that were set up in Jordan, that instruct those groups to continue their crimes against the Syrian people and destroy the people's capacities, and provide logistical and operational support to those groups.

11. The Syrian Government continues to deal with the repercussions of the displacement caused by the crimes of terrorists who come from more than 100 countries. It stresses that close cooperation and coordination with it in countering terrorism will help reduce the number of persons displaced as a result of emergencies and the number of asylum seekers, and mitigate the repercussions thereof.

12. The Syrian Government reiterates its previous statements about the importance of coordination between it and the United Nations in determining the number of affected persons and their humanitarian needs, because it is in a better position to provide those numbers. Accordingly, by inflating or reducing figures, the report's authors do not serve the noble purpose of responding to the urgent

humanitarian needs of affected persons, particularly in hotspots. For example, the number of civilians besieged by ISIL in Dayr al-Zawr is 300,000, not 228,000, while the number of persons besieged by Ahrar al-Sham and the Nusrah Front in Fu'ah and Kafraya is 35,000. Clearly, stating the actual numbers does not serve the purposes of those who want to misguide the members of the Security Council and others regarding the reality of the situation in Syria.

13. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to state that paragraph 43 of the report, which refers to the granting of visas to staff members and delegations of the United Nations, is inaccurate. As at the end of August 2015, the correct number of outstanding visa requests is 11, not 21. The Syrian Government hopes that the authors will strive for greater accuracy in the future.

14. In cooperation with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and other Palestinian and international organizations, the Syrian Government continued its emergency response to the forced displacement of Palestinian refugees from the Yarmouk Camp, which ISIL terrorist gangs infiltrated with help from the Nusrah Front in April 2015. The Government also notes that national reconciliation efforts in Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham helped restore life to normal in those areas, including business activity. Dozens of tons of food and other materials were brought into those areas and that had a positive effect on the local population and the Palestine refugees who had taken refuge there. The Syrian Government allowed UNRWA to bring medical supplies into the camp, with a view to containing the spread of typhoid, to bring in a mobile clinic three times a week, and to bring in a dental care unit twice a week.

15. Despite the politicization of humanitarian issues, the Syrian Government continues to cooperate with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes operating in Syria. The World Food Programme (WFP) was able to deliver assistance from inside Syrian territory to approximately 3,066,138 beneficiaries. It was able to do so despite the challenges facing humanitarian work, above all inadequate funding for the 2015 Strategic Response Plan, which is only 32 per cent funded to date, according to the United Nations.

Annex II contains examples of humanitarian assistance that was delivered thanks to the facilitation provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. It also lists assistance delivered by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

16. With regard to humanitarian work, the Syrian Government reiterates its position that it is unacceptable that the Secretariat should continue to deliberately overlook in its reports the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures imposed on the Syrian people. Those measures violate human dignity first and foremost, as well as the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law. In an irony that borders on political hypocrisy, certain States that are purportedly committed to a humanitarian response have persistently inflamed the situation in Syria and maintained a blockade, imposing unilateral economic measures that have further worsened the living conditions of all Syrians.

17. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that suppressing and combating terrorism requires a strong sense of purpose and an unwavering

international commitment. In that connection, the Government reiterates its previous calls to cooperate and coordinate with it in order to combat and suppress terrorism, halt the funding of terrorism, shut down the terrorist training camps located throughout neighbouring countries and implement the Security Council resolutions concerning counter-terrorism, including resolutions 2170 (2014), 2176 (2014) and 2199 (2015).

18. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its position that the crisis in Syria requires a political solution based on dialogue among Syrians under Syrian leadership, without any outside intervention.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the identical letters dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Crimes committed by ISIL, the Nusrah Front, the Free Army, the Army of Islam, the Army of Conquest, the Mujahidin Army, the Badr Martyrs Brigade, the Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade and other armed terrorist groups ignored by the authors of the report

- On 15 September 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Mujahidin Army, Badr Martyrs Brigade, Nusrah Front, Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade and other terrorist organizations connected to the regimes of the would-be Islamist Erdoğan and the Wahhabi Saudi dynasty launched a large number of rocket-propelled grenades and bombs at several neighbourhoods of the city of Aleppo. The Furqan and Hamdaniyah neighbourhood bore the brunt of the attack. The rocket-propelled grenades targeted children in their schools and civilians in their homes and workplaces, killing 31 civilians, including 13 children, 3 women and 15 men and elderly persons, and injuring more than 135 civilians, most of them children, women and elderly persons, some of whom are in critical condition. There was also significant material damage to public and private property.

- On Monday, 14 September 2015, armed terrorist groups carried out another terrorist crime against the civilian inhabitants of the city of Hasakah. Two suicide terrorists detonated two car bombs during rush hour in the Khasham and Mahattah neighbourhoods, killing more than 20 civilians as of the date of this letter, and seriously injuring 100 others, most of them women and children. There was also serious damage to public and private property, and three residential buildings were destroyed.

- On 1 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the terrorist Nusrah Front fired seven shells at Qarinat Hinah in Rif Dimashq governorate, injuring several civilians.

- On 1 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the ISIL terrorist organization fired a locally made missile at the town of Safirah in Aleppo governorate, killing three civilians and injuring five others.

- On 2 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to Nusrah Front and Ahrar al-Sham fired 35 missiles at the villages of Bahsah and Furu in Hama governorate, injuring two civilians.

- On 3 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and the Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells, locally made missiles and gas cylinders at the Mushariqah, Idha'ah, Jamiliyah and Khalidiyah neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo, killing two civilians and injuring three others.

- On 3 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells, locally made missiles and gas cylinders at the Jamiliyah, Qasr al-Baladi area, Mogambo, Nubul, Zahra', Ashrafiyah and Midan neighbourhoods in Aleppo, killing five civilians and injuring 45 others.

- On 7 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations, fired mortar shells and gas cylinders at the A'zamiyah area in Aleppo, injuring four civilians.
- On 8 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the Qassa', Bab Tuma, Abbasiyin, Uqdat al-Qabun, Thawrah Street and Baghdad Street neighbourhoods in Damascus, killing 11 civilians and injuring 49 others.
- On 9 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells at the Midan neighbourhood in the city of Aleppo, injuring eight civilians.
- On 10 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells at the Midan, Idha'a and Old Aleppo neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo, killing 11 civilians.
- On 11 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at the village of Khabab in Dar'a governorate without injury.
- On 12 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Army of Conquest and Nusrah Front fired more than 1,500 mortar shells, gas cylinders and locally made missiles at the villages of Kafraya and Fu'ah in Idlib governorate, killing 20 civilians, most of them women and children, and injuring a large number of others.
- On 12 August 2015, armed terrorist organizations fired more than 56 mortar shells at most of the neighbourhoods of Damascus, killing nine civilians and injuring 82 others, most of them women and children.
- On 12 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells and gas cylinders at the Aziziyah, Maysalun, Hamdaniyah and Khalidiyah neighbourhoods, killing four civilians and injuring nine others, most of them women and children.
- On 13 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called ISIL terrorist organization fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the Blue Beach resort in the city of Ladhiqiyah. No one was injured in the attack.
- On 14 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Army of Islam fired two mortar shells at the Biruni Cancer Treatment Hospital in Harasta, Rif Dimashq governorate, causing material damage to the building.
- On 16 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front and Army of Conquest fired 33 mortar shells at the villages of Rasif, Jayyid and Aziziyah in Hama governorate, injuring three civilians.
- On 16 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired four missiles, injuring three civilians.
- On 17 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired four rocket-propelled grenades at the city of Ladhiqiyah, killing five civilians and injuring 15 others.

- On 17 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells and gas cylinders at the Bab al-Faraj, Hamdaniyah and Salah al-Din neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo, injuring six civilians, most of them women and children.

- On 18 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called ISIL terrorist organization fired mortar shells at the Qusur and Ghazi Ayyash neighbourhoods in the city of Dayr al-Zawr, killing and injuring a number of civilians.

- On 19 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called ISIL terrorist organization killed Mr. Khalid al-As'ad, the former Director of Antiquities in Tadmur, and then crucified him on the remains of a column in that city.

- On 20 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired a mortar shell at the Khalidiyah neighbourhood in the city of Aleppo, killing a civilian and injuring five others.

- On 22 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired a number of mortar shells at the Mount Mazzah, eastern Mazzah and Bab Tuma neighbourhoods in the city of Damascus, killing four civilians and injuring 11 others.

- On 23 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired mortar shells at most of the neighbourhoods of Damascus, some of which fell in front of the Embassy of India, killing three civilians and injuring 23 others.

- On 24 August 2015, armed terrorist groups fired 28 mortar shells at most of the neighbourhoods of Damascus, injuring 40 civilians.

- On 24 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front, Badr Martyrs Brigade and Nur al-Din al-Zanki Brigade terrorist organizations fired mortar shells and gas cylinders at the Sayf al-Dawlah, Khalidiyah, Ashrafiyah, Mogambo and Nile Street neighbourhoods in the city of Aleppo, killing four civilians and injuring 22 others.

- On 25 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Army of Islam, Nusrah Front, Soldiers of Sham, and Rahman Corps fired six mortar shells at neighbourhoods in Damascus, injuring six civilians.

- On 26 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called ISIL organization fired 15 rocket-propelled grenades at the towns of Nubul and Zahra' in Aleppo governorate, killed a woman and injuring five civilians.

- On 27 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Army of Islam, Soldiers of Sham and Rahman Corps fired 20 mortar shells and locally made missiles at most of the neighbourhoods of Damascus, injuring 14 civilians.

- On 28 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Army of Islam, Soldiers of Sham and Rahman Corps fired 22 mortar shells and locally made missiles at most of the neighbourhoods of Damascus, killing three civilians and injuring seven others.

- On 30 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Army of Islam, Soldiers of Sham and Rahman Corps fired eight mortar shells and locally made missiles at most of the neighbourhoods of Damascus, injuring three civilians.
- On 30 August 2015, armed terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Nusrah Front fired 12 mortar shells at the Rastan Hospital in Homs governorate, causing material damage to the hospital.

Annex II to the identical letters dated 16 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Examples of humanitarian assistance that was delivered during August 2015 thanks to the facilitation provided by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations and other international organizations, in cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. Also listed is assistance delivered by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid (food and non-food aid and medical assistance), provided from inside Syrian territory by United Nations organizations, to various governorates, including Idlib, Rif Dimashq, Qunaytirah, Hasakah, Aleppo and Dar'a, but not to Raqqah or Dayr al-Zawr governorates. Some 3,066,138 Syrian beneficiaries (613,227 families) received food parcels provided by WFP from inside Syrian territory, distributed by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and non-governmental organizations. Some 187 parcels were delivered to Idlib and its countryside, 68,495 parcels to Rif Dimashq, 12,727 parcels to Dar'a and its countryside, 9,449 parcels to Qunaytirah, 72,428 parcels to Aleppo and its countryside, 6,073 parcels to Hasakah and 65,489 parcels to Homs and its countryside.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid provided by the International Committee of the Red Cross from inside Syrian territory to most governorates, including Rif Dimashq, Idlib, Dar'a, Qunaytirah and Aleppo. A total of 135,000 food parcels and parcels of canned goods, and 8,000 food rations in total (collective kitchens) were distributed. A total of 7,645 other parcels provided by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent were distributed in Homs and Aleppo governorates.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivered humanitarian aid (food aid, non-food aid and medical assistance) provided by foreign non-governmental organizations operating in Syria to Aleppo, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Qunaytirah, Homs, Suwayda' and Tartus governorates, benefiting tens of thousands of families.

- In the period from May to August 2015, local relief commissions provided approximately 12,050 food rations, including flour, and 12,600 non-food rations as part of the emergency response to the needs of affected civilians in the Hawsh Arab, Bada, Rawdah, Zabadani, Rahibah, Mu'addamiyat al-Sham, Yalda, Babila and Bayt Saham areas of Rif Dimashq governorate.

- The Syrian Arab Red Crescent responded to the emergency needs of the families that had fled to Mahin from the Qaryatayn and Hawarin areas at the beginning of August after those areas had been overrun by the ISIL terrorist organization. A total of 1,134 food parcels have been provided.

- WHO was able to deliver medical supplies and medication, including dialysis sessions, to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries in most Syrian governorates, including such hotspots as Duma in Rif Dimashq governorate, and other places in Aleppo, Rif Dimashq, Dar'a, Homs and Dayr al-Zawr governorates.

- The Syrian Government renewed its approval for WFP to bring humanitarian assistance through the Nusaybin crossing on the Syrian-Turkish border, in order to allow 59,000 food rations, 40 tons of yeast and 20 tons of peanut butter to be brought into Hasakah governorate and distributed to beneficiaries during August 2015. It also granted approval for 48,434 food parcels and 20 tons of peanut butter to be brought into the governorate and distributed to beneficiaries in September 2015.